

REMARKS

This Amendment, submitted in response to the Office Action dated August 7, 2003, is believed to be fully responsive to each point of rejection raised therein. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

Claims 5-6, 9-11, 23-25, and 31-38 remain pending in the application. The Examiner has withdrawn substantially all the previous art rejections, except claims 5-6, 9-11, 23-25, 31-34 and 38 have been rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting in view of U.S.P. 6,384,883. In this regard, Applicant submits a Terminal Disclaimer to obviate the rejection.

Though the Office Action refers to a statutory-type double patenting rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 101, the undersigned confirmed with the Examiner that the reference is in error, via a telephone conference of September 11, 2003.

Claims 35-36 and their dependent claim 37 have been objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75. A proposed correction is set forth above to obviate the objection. Applicant would submit that the amendment should be entered since it places the application in condition for allowance without introducing new issues in need of further consideration. It is noted that the subject matter is substantially reflected in prior pending claim 8 previously before the Examiner.

In view of the above, Applicant submits that claims 5, 6, 9-11, 23-25 and 31-38 are in condition for allowance. Therefore it is respectfully requested that the subject application be passed to issue at the earliest possible time. The Examiner is requested to contact the

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Appln. No. 09/987,637

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

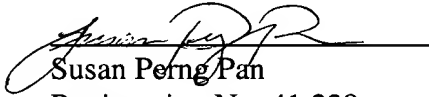
Respectfully submitted,

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